



U.S. Department of Justice

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MEDIA RELEASE
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PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS

VERMONT MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL WEAPONS CHARGE

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono and New Hampshire State Police Colonel Frederick H. Booth announced today that Alton Gray, 26, of Shadow Lake Road, Concord, Vermont, pleaded guilty today in U.S. District Court to an indictment charging him with one count of possessing a firearm while being a prohibited person.

Gray was stopped by the New Hampshire State Police on March 5, 2004 for a motor vehicle violation. At the time of the stop, a loaded handgun was found in the car. On April 7, 2004, a federal grand jury returned an indictment against Gray charging him with being a prohibited person in possession of a firearm. Gray had been previously convicted of attempted domestic assault, a misdemeanor, in Vermont in August of 2000. Under federal law, individuals convicted of misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence are prohibited from possessing firearms and ammunition.

A sentencing hearing has been scheduled for January 27, 2005. Gray faces a maximum sentence of 10 years imprisonment and a maximum fine of \$250,000.00.

This case exemplifies this office's commitment to aggressive prosecution of the federal firearms laws as mandated by Attorney General Ashcroft's Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative. This office will continue to vigorously enforce the federal firearms laws as we implement Project Safe Neighborhoods in the District of New Hampshire.

The prosecution is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Helen White Fitzgibbon.